Sharing of Cess on oil

709. SHRI BACHAN! LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have doubled the Cess amount from Rs. 900/- MT to Rs. 1800/- MT;

(b) whether it is a fact that the liberlized regime has enhanced the responsibilities of the State and now they have a greater role to play;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Members of Parliament in their Memorandum of 1 st May, 2002 impressed upon Government to share with Oil producing States at least 50 per cent from the income generated from the Cess; and

(d) if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Government has specified the rate of duty of excise in respect of crude oil at the rate of Rs. 1800 per tonne *w.e.f.* 1st March, 2002.

(b) As per provisions under the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, the cess is levied and collected by the Central Government and not by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is not aware of any such Memorandum from the Members of Parliament.

Disposal of waste steel pipes by ONGC

710. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner ERBC of ONGC distribute the waste steel pipes for building of bridges in upper Assam;

(b) whether there is any guidelines to provide these for MPLAD Schemes in the region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in supplying to such MPLAD public Schemes?